

June 2, 2015

BLOOD-HORSE STORY ON REPEAT OFFENDERS UP FOR BERGSTEIN AWARD ANGST'S PIECE DELVES INTO RED TAPE HOLDING UP PENALTY SYSTEM TRAINER RECEIVED SAME MINIMUM DRUG PENALTY 3 TIMES IN 11 MONTHS

Horses for a trainer in New York failed drug tests three times in 11 months, including one horse who tested positive two races in a row, but the trainer only incurred the same minimum penalty for each violation. This recent example is the centerpiece of a *Blood-Horse* story by Frank Angst that has been nominated for Team Valor International's Stan Bergstein Writing Award.

Angst details American racing's wide range of enforcement for horsemen with multiple drug offenses in short time periods.

Since the state of New York has not yet adopted a penalty system for multiple violations, trainer Luis Miranda received the same penalty each of the three times between May 2014 and January 2015 that a horse in his care failed a drug test: disqualification of the horse, a 15-day suspension, and a \$1,000 fine.

Angst writes, "The industry in recent years has taken some measures to strengthen penalties against multiple offenders. The multiple medication violations penalty system that is part of the National Uniform Medication Program is designed to increase sanctions of horsemen who repeatedly violate medication rules. But New York, like several prominent racing states, has not completed adoption of the rule."

The full story is [here](#).

Angst joins Ray Paulick of the *Paulick Report* ([story](#)) and Chris Wittstruck ([story](#)) of the United States Trotting Association website as nominees so far in 2015 for the Stan Bergstein Award, which Barry Irwin and Team Valor present each November with a \$25,000 prize.



Stan Bergstein Award trophy that last year went to Lucas Marquardt of the Thoroughbred Daily News.

Team Valor nominates stories throughout the year and assigns a panel of judges to select an award winner. This year's judges are Randy Moss of NBC Sports, Steve Haskin of the *Blood-Horse*, long-time Turf writer and publicist Lynne Snierson, owner-breeder George Strawbridge and Jon White of Santa Anita Park.